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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PM-03 DRC-01

/051 W
---------- 023886
O R 051935Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7501
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2802

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR HO
SUBJ: BATRES/BORGONOVO TALKS IN GUATEMALA

1. AT DINNER PARTY ON JULY 3, FONMIN BATRES INFORMED DCM OF SOME DETAILS OF HIS TALKS WITH FONMIN BORGONOVO, WHEN BOTH ATTENDED LAUGERUD INAUGURATION ON JULY 1-2.

2. FOR FIRST TIME BORGONOVO PROPOSED TO BATRES POSSIBILITY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER INTERVENING IN BORDER DISPUTE. BATRES REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT A BAD IDEA, BUT ASKED HOW IT WOULD BE DONE. BORGONOVO SAID THAT HE AND BATRES WOULD SECRETLY WORK OUT BETWEEN THEM SUCH ELEMENTS OF AN AGREEMENT AS THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD "SELL" TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES. WITH REGARD TO WHAT WAS LEFT OVER, THEY WOULD THEN CALL IN OUTSIDE PARTY. BATRES SAID GOH WOULD ALWAYS WELCOME ANY OUTSIDE ARBITRATION, WHICH BORGONOVO ANSWERED THAT HE DIDN'T INTEND THIS TO BE ARBITRATION. HE REPORTEDLY DID NOT FURTHER CLARIFY THE ROLE HE FORESAW FOR THE OUTSIDE PARTY.
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3. BATRES HAD OPENED CONVERSATION BY PROPOSING RETURN TO ANTIGUA AGREEMENT AS STARTING POINT, BUT BORGONOVO SHOWED NO INTEREST. IN CONTINUING TO URGE DIRECT TALKS, "WITHOUT NEED FOR OAS OR CA INTERVENTION," BATRES PROPOSED THAT TWO SIDES (A) DELINEATE UNDISPUTED PART OF BORDER, AND THEN (B) RESERVE POSITIONS ON REMAINDER WITHOUT AT THAT STAGE GOING INTO REASONS OR ARGUMENTS ON WHICH DIFFERENCES WERE BASED. THIS WOULD CREATE A NEW POINT OF DEPARTURE. BORGONOVO PROMISED TO CONSIDER SUCH RESUMPTION OF DIRECT TALKS, BUT SAID HE HAD TO CONSULT HIS "COMMITTEE" AND GOVERNMENT. HE UNDERTOOK TO PHONE BATRES ON JULY 5 OR 6.

4. ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION BATRES TALKED JOINTLY TO BORGONOVO AND SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE. BORGONOVO FOUND THIS USEFUL, AS HE TOLD BATRES THAT HIS MAIN PROBLEM WAS THE MINISTER'S INCOMPREHENSION OF COMPLICATIONS OF BORDER DISPUTE, INCLUDING GOH POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS AND ROLE OF DISAGREEMENT IN BROADER CA PICTURE. BORGONOVO REPORTEDLY COMPLIMENTED BATRES FOR HELPING MINISTER TO "PERCEIVE PROBLEM BETTER", AND PROFESSED THAT BRIEFING MAY BRING MINISTER AROUND TO BEING HIS ALLY ON MATTER WITHIN GOES. IN THIS CONVERSATION, ACCORDING TO BATRES, SALVADORANS BROACHED PROPOSAL OF BROADENING PRESENT DEMILITARIZED ZONE. BATRES REJECTED IDEA AT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT SALVADORANS ALSO PROPOSED LARGE SCALE BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN FONMINS, MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, CHIEFS OF STAFF, AND EXPERTS. BATRES EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM OF UTILITY OF SUCH LARGE GROUPS.

5. ANSWERING QUESTION, HE SAID THAT BORGONOVO DID NOT DWELL ON HIS WELL-KNOWN VIEWS THAT OCCUPANCY AND STATUS QUO SHOULD FORM BASIS FOR BORDER DETERMINATIONS, INSTEAD OF DOCUMENTS ON HISTORICAL CLAIMS.

6. BATRES SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT ALL THIS MEANT. HE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO SEE WHETHER AND WHEN BORGONOVO WENT TO WASHINGTON TO SEE THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN. AS FOR AGREEMENT TO BILATERAL TALKS ON INITIATIVE OF TWO COUNTRIES, BATRES FEARED THAT BORGONOVO'S ALLEGED NEED TO CONSULT HIS "COMMITTEE" WOULD SERVE AS EXCUSE TO DELAY.
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